

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, September 10, 2004

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH ARE HONORED DURING MONTHLY "CHAMPS" CEREMONY

Earlier this year, Officers Kevin Johnson and Megan Tieman of the Seventh District received a radio assignment for several men armed with guns in the 1700 block of W Street, SE. When officers responded to the scene, an alert citizen pointed out that the suspects had fled on foot between several buildings. Anticipating the most likely path the suspects would take, the officers alerted Officer Fred Brown to round the block on to Green Street, SE, to head off two heavily armed men – one with an AK-47 assault rifle with a 30-round clip, the other with a pump shotgun. Spotted on Green Street, the suspects reversed direction but were headed off by Officers Johnson and Tieman. Blocked in their escape, the two gunmen laid down their weapons, then ran inside a building in the 1600 block of W Street, SE. Officers Johnson and Tieman secured the two loaded weapons and then entered the building, where they discovered and apprehended the two suspects, who were trying to shed their clothing to avoid detection. Both suspects were arrested, and subsequently told the officers that they were preparing to ambush and gun down another man. For their bravery and skill in preventing a possible homicide, all three 7D officers were recently honored during the September CHAMPS awards ceremony. They were among 12 "officers of the month" who were recognized during a luncheon on September 1.

① Read about all of their heroic actions at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2004/09.shtml>

① CHAMPS, which stands for Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service, is an incentive award program sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC, in appreciation and support of the MPDC's service to the community.

MPDC ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO GET INFORMED AND PREPARED DURING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH

With DC still under a heightened (Orange) terrorism alert and the East Coast facing a very active hurricane season, Mayor Williams this week declared September as Emergency Preparedness Month, and encouraged all residents and government agencies to renew their commitment to being prepared. "Since September 11, 2001, we've made great strides in educating our residents—specially seniors and people with special needs—about preparing for, responding to and recovering from all types of emergencies and disasters," said Mayor Williams. "During September, I encourage everyone to be sure that they are prepared to respond to emergencies." September also marks the launch of a major advertising campaign designed to get citizens to enroll in the text alert portion of Alert DC, the District's new citizen emergency notification program. Ads will appear on the Metro system and be broadcast on local television and radio stations. By signing up for Alert DC, residents can receive real-time information during an emergency or disaster through messages sent to email accounts, text pagers or cell phones. The system tells subscribers what has happened and what protective actions they should take. Also during September, DC is providing residents with a variety of opportunities to engage in emergency preparedness activities.

① Learn more by going to:
<http://dc.gov/news/release.asp?id=633>

① To learn more about Alert DC, and to sign up for the emergency notification system, visit:
<http://emergencycenter.dc.gov/eia/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=563034&PM=1>

① For more information about emergency preparedness resources in the MPDC, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/emergencypreparedness.shtml>

① Hurricane season is upon us. The DC Emergency Management Agency encourages residents to get the facts on flooding:
<http://dcema.dc.gov/dcema/cwp/view%2Ca%2C1226%2Cq%2C533347.asp>

SPOTLIGHT ON...MPDC'S GAY AND LESBIAN LIAISON UNIT

As Mayor Williams this week announced the creation of his new Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Affairs, DC residents are reminded of the public safety services provided by the MPDC's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit. Created in June 2000, the GLLU is headed by Sgt. Brett Parson and is staffed by openly gay and lesbian members of the department, as well as Reserve Officers and community volunteers. In addition to providing 24-hour response to members of the GLBT community and the Police Department, the GLLU also advises the Chief of Police on issues surrounding the GLBT community, assists with investigations involving GLBT community members, and provides training to the GLBT community and members of the MPDC, among other responsibilities. The GLLU also serves on DC's Hate Crimes Task Force and works with the community on combating hate crimes.

DC RECORDS A 9 PERCENT REDUCTION IN CRIME IN 2003

The number of serious crimes in DC declined by nearly 9 percent during 2003 when compared with 2002, according to final, official statistics reported by the MPDC. The 40,456 serious (or "Index") crimes reported in 2004 was the lowest annual total in well over a decade, and was 40 percent lower than the 68,146 crimes reported in 1993. Crime in DC has declined in seven out of the last eight years. Reductions were recorded last year in four crime categories: homicide (-5.3%), aggravated assault (-7.7%), burglary (-9.6%) and larceny/theft (-16.9%). Last year's burglary and aggravated assault totals were less than half of what they were a decade ago, and homicides are down more than 45 percent since 1993. Modest increases were recorded in 2003 in the other four crime types that make up the Crime Index: forcible rape (+4.2%), robbery (+2.8%), motor vehicle theft (+4.2%) and arson (+15.6%, rising from 109 to 126 offenses). Crime was down in five of the seven police districts during 2003, with 3D (-19%), 1D (-17.6%) and 4D (-15.4%) recording the largest percentage decreases. Serious crime increased last year in 6D (+6.6%) and 7D (+6.9%), with both districts recording substantial increases in auto thefts.

NEWS & NOTES

September 11th Remembered. The MPDC joins the law enforcement community and the entire American community in remembering the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In particular, our thoughts are with the survivors of the 72 law enforcement officers who died while serving others on that date, as well as with the family members, classmates and colleagues of the DC Public School students and teachers who were on board the hijacked plane that crashed into the Pentagon. You will never be forgotten.

Civilian Positions in the MPDC. The MPDC continues to seek applications for various civilian positions within the agency. Current vacancies include a general engineer/project manager for Facilities, a fleet maintenance and repair supervisor, a staff assistant in Business Services, and bilingual police communications operators. Details, including position requirements and application procedures, are available online at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>.

Chief Joins Call for Renewal of Assault Weapons Ban. Chief Ramsey this week joined fellow police chiefs, survivors of homicide victims and others in urging the renewal of the 10-year-old federal ban on many types of assault weapons. The ban, passed in 1994 and credited with helping to reduce crimes committed with assault weapons, expires on September 13 unless Congress votes to extend it. For additional background on the federal assault weapons ban, visit <http://www.bradycampaign.org/press/release.php?release=585>.

Murder Suspects Sought. The MPDC is seeking the public's help in locating two suspects wanted in separate murders committed earlier this year. For information and photographs of suspect Curlee Hall and Stephen Crawford, go to <http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2876>.

① For more information about the GLLU, including complete, 24-hour contact information, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/gllu.shtm>

① For details on the new Mayor's Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Affairs and its director, Wanda Alston, go to: <http://www.dc.gov/news/release.asp?id=630>

① View the official crime statistics for each police district and the city as a whole, for the years 1993 through 2003, at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats_annualtrends.shtm

① Preliminary statistics for the first eight months of 2004 show that the overall trend of declining crime is continuing in DC, with a 12 percent reduction citywide and declines in all seven districts. View the latest preliminary statistics at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats_readthis.shtm

① Chief Ramsey has credited police-community cooperation as a major factor in DC's declining crime rate. Learn more about the MPDC's Policing for Prevention strategy and how you can get involved by going to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/pfp.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 9/10/04)

- 2004: 134
- 2003: 175
- % Change: -23.4%
- Closure Rate: 54.5% (73 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 9/4/04)

- Total: 986
- Drugs: 109
- Weapons: 18
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 25
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 64

Firearm Recoveries (as of 9/8/04)

- September: 27
- 2004 Total: 1,385

Traffic Fatalities (as of 9/10/04)

- 2004: 36
- 2003: 47
- % Change: -23.4%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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